

The Pipeline

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Naomi Judd Helps Kick Off Phase Two of KCHIP

Country music superstar Naomi Judd helped kick off the second phase of Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program, KCHIP on June 23 at Frankfort's Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center.

Judd, a Kentucky native and former nurse, unveiled the new KCHIP logo and the commercials she and her daughter, actress Ashley Judd, prepared for a statewide public awareness campaign. Naomi's other daughter, Wynonna, sings during the ad.

Full details are on the Internet at http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm, the Media Release site for the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services.

The Cabinet for Health Services has established a toll-free number for questions about KCHIP and the applications process. The number is 1-877-KCHIP-18 (524-4718), or 1-877-524-4719 for the hearing impaired.

Some of the most frequently asked questions are:

What is KCHIP?

The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program. It provides free health coverage to children birth through 18.

Who is eligible?

Uninsured children who live in families with income below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. (For a family of four that's \$25,050 a year). Families with children birth to 1 may be able to have higher levels of income.

What does it cover?

Almost everything – doctor's visits, hospitalization, medication, dental services, hearing, vision, medical equipment and many other services.

How do people apply?

They should go to their local health department, Department for Community Based Services office, or Family Resources and Youth Services office and get an application.

They can also call toll-free 1-877-KCHIP-18 (1-877-524-4719 for the hearing impaired) and have an application mailed to them. The application will tell you everything you need to do. They may call the toll-free number for help with the application.

How many children are eligible for KCHIP?

An estimated 100,000 children who don't have insurance coverage in Kentucky.

How is KCHIP funded?

Federal and state funds provide \$63 million a year for KCHIP. The 1998 General Assembly authorized the state program.



Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program

Pennington Appointed MH/MR Commissioner



Margaret Pennington has been appointed as the commissioner of the Cabinet for Health Services' Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

Commissioner Pennington was previously director of the department's Division of Mental Health. As commissioner, she replaces Elizabeth Wachtel, who returned to Eastern Kentucky University where she is a tenured faculty member.

CHS Secretary John Morse said selection of Pennington was the result of an extensive process. "We did a national search and found the best candidate at home," he said.

Pennington began her career in state government service 27 years ago as a foster care worker in the former Department for Child Welfare. She conceived and implemented the Special Needs Adoption Program, SNAP, while working in the former Department for Social Services.

She has served in several administrative positions, and has been a long-standing advocate for family and consumer involvement in statewide policy, program development and monitoring.

Pennington attended Hanover College and the University of Louisville, where she received a master's degree from the Kent School of Social Work. She lives in Louisville with her husband, Dr. Gary Pennington, a Presbyterian minister and licensed marriage and family therapist.

KET to Air Y2K Summit

If you missed the Y2K Summit held at Frankfort's Civic Center in June, KET will broadcast key segments of the forum. The Summit provided information on Y2K readiness status around the state and nation, as well as information on steps individuals should consider taking to prepare for Y2K.

KET will air the Summit in three separate one-hour segments of "For the Record" at 12 a.m. EST on July 11, July 18 and July 25. The station will also broadcast a one-hour edited tape titled "CIO's Year 2000 Summit" Aug. 9 at 9 p.m. EST.

Study Prepared on Impact of Welfare Reform in KY

A new report on the impact of welfare reform says Kentucky made substantial progress in the first two years of reform, but significant barriers remain, especially in Kentucky's Appalachian counties.

The state's renewed emphasis on welfare as a short-term bridge to self-sufficiency appears to be gaining acceptance, as more recent recipients show a greater likelihood of breaking the cycle – getting off welfare and staying off for a year or more.

The report – prepared by the University of Louisville's Center for Policy Research and Evaluation, under contract with the Cabinet for Families and Children – also shows that welfare recipients in non-Appalachian rural counties and those in metropolitan areas are more likely than those in the 49 counties of Appalachia to leave public assistance and find work.

CFC will use the report, along with two previous studies and one forthcoming, to implement welfare reform in ways that benefit both recipients and taxpayers.

For more details, read the press release on the report at http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us



Central Office Notes and Activities

- ? The **American Red Cross** will take donations of blood July 7, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Health Services Building. Division recruiters will make appointments for the drive. For additional information, call Dora Kerns, of the Cabinet for Health Services, (502)564-2772, ext. 126, or Debbie Armstrong, of the Cabinet for Families and Children, (502)564-7770.
- ? The American Red Cross will also hold a **blood drive**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. July 8 at the American Legion Post, 164 Versailles Rd., Frankfort.
- ? The **Fibromyalgia Support Group** meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Highland Christian Church. Everyone is invited. The next meeting will be July 15. For more information, call Linda Burke, CHS public health, (502)564-7213.
- ? The **aerobics program** gets a workout every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at (502)564-7718 for more information.
- ? Nominations for the Cabinet for Families and Children **Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. Contact Charlene Nation or Carmen Maxson in Employees Services, (502)564-7770, for more information.
- ? New **Frankfort phone directories** are now available in the Building Superintendent's office, first floor of the Human Resource Building.

CFC Online Phone Directory

In case you haven't heard, there is an up-to-date, online phone directory of all central office employees of the Cabinet for Families and Children at your fingertips.

You can access the directory from CFC's homepage, <http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/cfachome.htm>, or go directly to it at http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CFC/phone_program/phone_program.html.

Cookie Whitehouse of CFC's Office of Program Support has worked very hard to create this phone directory and keep it updated, but she is retiring at the end of July. The Office of Technology Services has agreed to take over the directory's maintenance.

Any corrections or updates to the directory should be e-mailed to OTS at their service request site. It's listed in your e-mail global address book as CFC Service Request.

Donated Sick Leave Needed

Ethel Wood of CFC's Procurement Branch is on sick leave following surgery. To donate time, call Carmen Maxson at (502) 564-7770.

Mildred McCrady, of CFC's Marshall County Child Support, is on extended sick leave after having a stroke. To donate time, contact Lane Sirls, (270)527-0662.

Donna Aldridge of the Division of Laboratory Services in the Dept. for Public Health is currently on leave after having surgery. Contact Regina Hutcherson at (502)564-4446 to donate time.

Joyce Turley of Medicaid Services, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident February 10, also needs donated sick leave. Contact Peggy Puckett at 564-5472.

Ruth Wilhoite of CFC's Family Support is on leave following back surgery. To donate leave, contact Charlene Nation or Carmen Maxson at (502) 564-7770.

Christy McVay of CFC's Christian County Protection and Permanency is on extended leave as a result of her husband's work-related injury. To donate leave, contact Joyce Caldwell at (502) 889-6570.

Joyce Price of CFC's Pulaski County Family Support office is on medical leave due to her fourth cancer-related surgery. To donate leave, contact Pam Leigh at (606) 677-4103.

Sue Anderson of CFC's Allen County Family Support office has been on leave since April 1 and is in need of donated sick leave. To donate leave, contact Charlene Nation at (502) 564-7770.

Helen Burnett of Licensing and Regulation is also in need of donated sick leave. To donate time, contact Tina Abnee at (606)246-2301.

Beware Fake Social Workers

Several recent incidents have prompted concern that two or more people may be posing as social workers for the Cabinet for Families and Children, pretending to investigate possible child abuse.

Anyone suspicious of a stranger purporting to be a state social worker is advised to:

- 1) ask to see identification;
- 2) verify the identity of the worker by calling the local office of CFC's Department for Community Based Services;
- 3) attempt to get a look at the worker's car and, if possible, jot down the license plate number;
- 4) if after hours, call the local police department.

For more details, read the press release at http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm

Secretary Morse Thanks CHS Employees For Mars Work

Health Services Secretary John Morse is offering a special thanks to the cabinet employees who have been working on the implementation of the Management Administrative and Reporting System, or MARS.

In a letter to employees, Morse said they had “successfully completed these essential preparations, while maintaining both the quality and quantity of your regular work, and thus insuring no interruption of our services to citizens of the Commonwealth.”

Morse also said the next two weeks will present the greatest challenge – simultaneous closeout of the current state fiscal year, the end of KAPS and STARS, and the actual transition to MARS.

“As we move from the preparation stage and into actual implementation of the system itself, you again are the key players,” Morse said in the letter. “I am confident that you are capable of meeting every challenge this transition will bring.”

Retirements

Tillie Welker is retiring from the Cabinet for Health Services' Office of Program Support after 27 years of service. A retirement reception will be held at Fair Oaks July 29, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., in Large Conference Room A on the 4th floor.

The Logan County Protection & Permanency Office invites everyone to a retirement reception at the office, 343 West Third Street in Russellville, July 20, 5-9 p.m., for **Sandra Barrow, Pam Young** and **Sherry Guion**.

Helpful Web Sites

Now that most of us have computers, we are learning how to make the best use of them. Some employees have asked for help locating some useful web sites. Here are just a few. Just click on the links below.

Government sites

http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CFC/phone_program/phone_program.html (CFC Central Office Phone Directory; To search the directory, click your EDIT button, then click FIND, then type in name or office you're seeking)

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/personnel/pershome.htm> (state Personnel Cabinet)

<http://www.state.ky.us/> (state government web page)

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/> (CFC/CHS joint site)

<http://simplifiedaccess.state.ky.us/> (Learn about Simplified Access)

<http://resourcedirectory.state.ky.us/> (Find human services all over Kentucky)

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/> (Health & human services links all over the USA)

<http://ciir2.cs.umass.edu/Govbot/> (Database of government web sites)

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov/> (US Health & Human Services)

<http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/poverty/poverty.htm> (Official Poverty Guidelines)

Think tanks, advocacy groups

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/> (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy)

<http://www.kychild2000.com/> (a multidisciplinary group focusing on children's needs)

<http://epn.org/> (Electronic Policy Network: links to many social-policy think tanks)

<http://www.iwpr.org/WRNN.HTM> (Institute for Women's Policy Research – welfare reform news)

<http://www.ggw.org/cap/emancipated.html> (The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997)

<http://www.aphsa.org/> (American Public Human Services Association)

News-based sites

<http://www.stateline.org/> (news about state governments all over USA)

<http://ajr.newslink.org/news.html> (find newspapers all over the world)

<http://www.kentuckyconnect.com/heraldleader/> (Lexington Herald-Leader)

<http://www.courier-journal.com/> (Louisville Courier-Journal; less complete than H-L's)

<http://www.usatoday.com/> (USA Today)

<http://www.cnn.com/> (Cable News Network)